

**STATE OF NEBRASKA - SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE**  
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**BUSINESS SERVICES DIVISION**

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**Notary**

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**JOHN A. GALE**  
Secretary of State

**DEBBIE PESTER**  
Deputy Secretary of State

June 25, 2004

**MEMORANDUM**

RE: Adoption documentation

Over the past few months, prospective adoptive parents have been submitting the attached form (or similar versions) to our office to be apostilled or authenticated. The forms submitted are incomplete as they contain blank spaces for information and blank signature lines to be filled in by the government officials in the country where the international child will be adopted **at** the time the child is placed with the prospective parents.

In order to facilitate these submissions, currently we have been accepting the documents if the blank spaces and signature lines were either: 1) completed when received by our office or 2) lined through and initialled by the adoptive parents so that information could not be altered after our office issued the apostille or authentication.

In the interim, however, as the official authority for the State of Nebraska to issue Apostilles and Authentications, our office has shared a copy of the documents and our concerns on Apostilles and authentications with Jeff Kovar, Assistant Legal Adviser, Private and International Law Office of the Legal Adviser, U. S. Department of State, in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Kovar concurs with our decision that these documents may not be apostilled or authenticated by our office but rather completed and signed in Russia and notarized by the consulate office at that time. Therefore, our office will no longer accept the forms for processing.

Respectfully,

Debbie Pester  
Deputy Secretary of State

(to be filled by a Ministry official)

Child's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of referral \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's consent to accept a child \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's refuse to accept a child \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) of refusal \_\_\_\_\_

Child's full name \_\_\_\_\_  
Institution \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of referral \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's consent to accept a child \_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant's refuse to accept a child \_\_\_\_\_  
Reason(s) of refusal \_\_\_\_\_

**Information on the withdrawal of the adoptive candidate from official records**

Date of documents' submission to the court (for adoption placement), or to a Child Welfare authority (for foster family placement):

"-----"-----2003

Details of the document finalizing the child's placement with a family ( court decision, local government order, foster family agreement) \_\_\_\_\_  
( issuing body)

date: "-----"-----2003

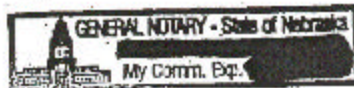
Reasons of withdrawal (registration discontinuation) \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of withdrawal: "-----"-----2003

Signature of the adoptive candidate: [REDACTED]  
Signature of the Regional Data Bank official (with indication of printed name and position)

Seal

State of Nebraska  
County of [REDACTED]

On December 31, 2003, [REDACTED] personally appeared before me, who is personally known to me, to be the signer of the above instrument, and he acknowledged that he signed it.



[REDACTED]  
Notary Public